



Date: April 19, 2001

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: STRATHCONA PARK UPGRADE

RECOMMENDATION

A. THAT the Park Board approve award of consultancy contract to PD Group Landscape Architecture & Interior Design Ltd. for \$64,000 (excluding GST).

B. THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby and none shall arise until execution of the contemplated contract. The Board may rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution of the contemplated contract.

POLICY

Consultancy contracts in excess of \$30,000 are awarded by the Board.

BACKGROUND

On April 4, 2000, a report was presented to and approved by Council and Park Board requesting provision of \$400,000 from Hendersen Development (Canada) Ltd. to supplement capital funds of \$350,000 in order to carry out redesign and upgrade at Strathcona Park.

DISCUSSION

The community has supported an upgrade of the park for approximately 12 years but has had difficulty reaching consensus regarding a conceptual plan. In 1996, Apra Group Incorporated developed a conceptual plan which most members of the community favoured. As there were still a few dissatisfied groups, work on the project stopped until 2000 when staff met with a working committee who wanted the Apra plan to be reignited.

The design the Apra Group presented at the time of its report included: a revamped pedestrian circulation system, rebuilding of the soccer field and track at the southeast corner of the park, picnic areas, playgrounds and various passive and active areas to be aligned along a central walkway. (See attached site plan from the Apra Group Inc. report.)

Staff received 4 fee proposals through invitation of a Terms of Reference. The proposals ranged from \$64,000 to \$79,044, including sub-consultants and excluding GST and disbursements.

The community group comprising members from the community centre at Strathcona, neighbourhood and park improvements groups, residents and park users met with the consultants in individual one hour interviews. The group agreed that PD Group would be the most empathetic to public needs and therefore result in the most progress of the project. As well, PD Group included a public art consultant with their proposal and highlighted environmental aspects as part of its focus of concern and design direction.

SUMMARY

Awarding the contract to the PD Group will allow the design of the park to move ahead to working drawings and tendering with a view to construction initiation in early 2002.

Prepared by:

Planning and Operations
Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, B.C.

KDJ/hat